

FISHES WITH GEMS IN THEM

Pretty Story of Some Rich Finds Related by a Piscatorial Narrator.

"One might as well say that fish include pearls," was the retort made by a Woolwich magistrate to a traveling purveyor of pills who sought to convince him that he did not require a peddler's certificate to vend his wares, seeing that they were made from gentian, and as such came under the expected head of "vegetables." We are not anxious to open up a controversy either botanical or zoological, says the Dundee Advertiser, but we rather think the Woolwich justice would have revised the dictum he employed to confute the itinerant pill merchant had he read the interesting news which a Bristol correspondent has purveyed to the London press. All the anglers of the pretty village of Portishead, at the mouth of the Avon, are to be seen daily at the dock at present eagerly casting their lines in the hope of securing a fish containing a gem of marketable value. And these good folk have solid reasons for the expectancy that fills their breasts. Lately, we are told, a good-sized fish was landed, and when it came to be dissected on the domestic table it was found to "include" a diamond ring declared to be worth from £25 to £30. So, on the principle that what has been may be, the Portishead anglers are now in constant attendance at their dock. The story is a pretty one, and is told with all the charming naïveté of the piscatorial narrator. "Angling," writes Isaac Walton in his quaint way, "is something like poetry—men are to be born so." It is also like poetry in the wonderful way in which it stimulates the imagination and exalts the hopes. We in Scotland, however, said to relate, seem to come less under its inspiring influence than our English friends. All we can afford at this time, however, is the adding of a young man with red and blue on Loch Lomond.

TO TRAP WOLF AND BEAR.

Pig and Sheep the Attractive Bait Used to Enture the Invaders.

The increase in the number of bears and wolves in the upper peninsula and that of the wolf bounty provided for by the legislature has stimulated some of the old hunters of the lower peninsula, who hunted "bear and wolf" south of the straits, to cross the channel and bait for them there. An old method of trapping will be employed, says the Stephenson (Mich.) Journal. The plan is to build two trap pens, one for bears, the other for wolves. In the first a pig will be used for bait and the bear watched for and dosed with lead before he can reach the pork. It being claimed that a clear nosed bear, free from quarrh, can smell a pig four miles and will leave any other scent and go after the pig, which is a great dainty for the bear's palate.

WHEN THE SHAH SLEEPS.

It Is Never on a Bedstead and There Are Royal Portraits About Him.

The shah of Persia never under any circumstances sleeps on a bedstead, and no matter where he has stayed, whether it be in royal palaces or hotels, he has either had the bedstead removed from his sleeping apartment or else has relegated it to some remote corner, so as to enable him to sleep in the exact center of the room on a couple of huge cushions or soft oriental mattresses stretched upon the floor.

And just behind the cushion upon which his head rests there is always a small table, upon which are five portraits. The center one is of himself. It is flanked on either side by those of King Edward and Queen Alexandra, while beyond them on either side are the pictures of the emperor and empress of Russia. These portraits accompany him everywhere, and may be said to watch over his slumbers in his own dominions as well as abroad.

Cinematograph Not New.
In a lecture before the Society of Arts, London, Martin Duncan stated that the cinematograph may be traced back to 180 A. D. by a document in the Bodleian library at Oxford.

WITCHCRAFT IN AFRICA.

The Superstition of Natives Preyed Upon by Cannibal Criminals.

Mr. H. C. MacDonald in his report shows how suspicious men of Zulu descent still are.

"About 5,000 people were here last Friday, and the 'indaba' (discussion) lasting until after sundown, most of them were compelled to sleep here," he says. "Having no food for their entertainment, I hurriedly purchased two oxen, which I gave the chiefs. Knowing their superstitions, I did not kill the animals, but allowed them to do so. With the exception of Mzukuzuku, however, none of them would touch the meat. They thought I might have bewitched the animals and that by partaking of the meat they would lose all influence with their people and themselves come under the influence of the Boma."

It is often discovered, says the London Daily Telegraph, that witchcraft has been practised as a cloak to cover and means to commit some abominable crime. A case in point, tried in the Lilongwe court, proved that a native woman killed by a lion had been partly eaten by another native who was accused of impersonating the lion. The native in question confessed freely, and he had even of the woman's dead body the expense being that he had "taken" from a "witch doctor" the magic local medicine, a medicine which enabled him to turn into a lion at will in other words to induce a lion to kill in his lowest form as the most cruel him.

INSULTED CHINESE GOD.

Reverence to Hitherto Deity Brings Punishment Upon American in China.

"I had a friend who came very near being killed by the natives of China from his lack of knowledge of the superstitions of the natives," said T. H. Gunn, of New York, relates the Washington Post.

"This friend was a mining engineer, and he had found a rich vein of coal in which he proceeded to do a little digging to the intense horror and fiercer anger of the people of the vicinity. So outraged were they at his impious act that he was fiercely set upon by a frenzied mob, and but for the timely interference would have been slain. He had, innocently enough, insulted one of the greatest Chinese deities, Fung Shui, which in English means 'the spirit of the ground.' Now, in turning up the earth the home of this spirit is violated, and hence no true Chinaman will ever do any mining because it is an insult to Fung Shui.

"Any irreverence to this subterranean deity is certain of punishment, according to the Moncolian belief. The invasion of his regions is sure to be followed by droughts and failure of crops, if not by pestilence and famine. This adoration of Fung Shui is, of course, confined almost entirely to the peasant class, the farmers of the rural districts, but it is a superstition that has been handed down for generations, and it cannot be dissipated in a day."

WANTED ART BY THE TON.

Commissioners Wanted Sculptor to Figure on Weight of Group Base.

Of late years Mr. McMonnies has had so many commissions to do groups of sculpture that he has made it a rule never to enter a competition with other artists for an order. In this connection, say World's work, a story is told of an American city that asked him to enter a design for army and navy groups for a soldiers' and sailors' monument. He declined to compete. Then the commission was tendered to him outright. He submitted sketches of his idea for the groups. The committee in charge of the monument wrote him, asking: "How many tons of granite do you intend to use in the base?" His reply was: "If you are in the business of buying granite, you may use as much as you want, one ton or 100,000 tons. I am an artist, and I never yet heard of art being bought by the pound." The question was dropped until the contract for the commission was drawn. When Mr. McMonnies received it he discovered in it a clause providing that in case the bronzes were ever thrown down from their base, by any cause whatever, and any person or property should be injured, he and his heirs forever should be liable for the damage sustained. He returned the contract without comment, unsigned. When the committee wrote him asking the reason, his brief reply was: "Your lawyers are too sharp."

Unmistakable Guilt.

"You are sure that man cheated?"
"Yes, sir," answered three fingered Sam. "He held four aces."
"But that is not conclusive evidence."
"It was in this case. I knew where the three regular aces was, myself." Washington Star.

Telephone Talk.

"Patience, I had Will on the wire this afternoon."
"Patience, how does he like the change?"
"What change?"
"Why, you've had him on a string for some time."—Vancouver Statesman.

Suits.

Nerdy. My wedding suit cost me \$150. Pretty expensive, eh?
Butts—Yes, but that isn't a market what my divorce suit cost. Louisville Courier-Journal.

LONG TRIP WITH OX TEAM.

Over 1500 Miles Made by Elderly Couple and Family in Eight Months.

An old-time prairie schooner, drawn by two ox teams, and the wagon filled with the entire earthly possessions of William Hoyt has covered the distance of 1,200 miles between Decatur, Ala., and Guthrie since April 6 last, with stops of several weeks duration at Memphis, Little Rock and Fort Smith, where Hoyt worked to get enough money on which to continue the journey to Beaver county, in this territory, where he will homestead a claim and begin life anew, says a Guthrie (Okla.) correspondence of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Hoyt is now 60 years old, and is accompanied by his wife, aged 52, a son, Louis, aged 14, and two daughters, Clementine, aged 13, and Katherine, aged 10. When the outfit reaches Beaver county it will have covered 1,500 miles.

Hoyt himself is white haired, but spry. All his life he has been an iron molder and for 40 years he worked in shops at Decatur. Finally he became sick and his physicians recommended a complete change of climate. Hoyt sold what property he had and purchased the oxen and six head of cows and started. Hoyt and his son attended to the oxen while the mother and oldest girl followed on foot with the cows. The cows are tied together, to prevent a stampede, and all are led by Mrs. Hoyt. The girl leads a three-month-old calf. All parties, excepting the youngest daughter, have walked practically the entire distance.

Hoyt has regained his health and expects to use the oxen next spring to break sod and tend at least 50 acres of corn and kafir corn.

GIANT WORK OF GLACIER.

Electric Power Being Generated by Melted Ice of the Northwestern Mountains.

From the gushing streams of the north already generated a very large amount of electric power, which is being utilized not only for power, but for generating a variety of uses for the current, say the Technical World Magazine, it may be stated that it operates the electric railway systems in the cities of Seattle and Tacoma aggregating 168 miles a trolley line, in addition to cable railways situated in the hilly portions of these cities. Besides this service, however, current is furnished for one of the most notable interurban electric railways in the United States, that extending between Seattle and Tacoma, where power is secured from the third rail in connection with the multiple-unit system. This line is employed not only for passenger service, but for transporting freight and express material, and ranks among the most completely equipped electric systems in the world. The horse power required for a number of the largest industries in the city of Tacoma, including the shops of the Northern Pacific railway and the water-work pumping plant, is also obtained from this source: while illumination, for streets and buildings, in both Seattle and Tacoma, depends upon it to a considerable extent. The demand for power is increasing so rapidly that within a few years Mount Tacoma will be supplying fully 50,000 horse-power to the cities mentioned.

PEARLS FOR THE MARKET.

Fresh Water Gems Cultivated for Sale in the Mississippi Basin.

The systematic culture of fresh water pearls may easily become an important industry in the United States as the mollusk from which they are taken are very abundant in our lakes and rivers, says the Technical World Magazine. The Mississippi basin, especially, teems with them, presenting many forms which differ from those of the Atlantic watershed and other parts of the world.

The methods of culture are exceedingly simple as it is necessary only to open slightly the shell and insert a very small transparent glass bead, putting it between the mantle and the shell. Great care must be taken to avoid injury to the little animal; and in opening the shell a thin, flat iron tool with a wooden handle and a bent point should be used; a knife might answer for this purpose. When the point has been inserted it is turned around to an angle of about 90 degrees, the shell being thus partially opened without injury to the life within. After treatment, it must be returned to the water for a year or two, while the process of incrustation goes on.

Taking No Chances.

"Perhaps," suggested the waiter, "you would like a Welsh rabbit?"
"No," said the austere customer. "I am a vegetarian."
"A Welsh rabbit is made of cheese, you know, sir."
"I know it. As I said before, I am a vegetarian." Chicago Tribune.

Reading Her Face.

Malet told in her first youth that of all he held his hands and told his fortune, and then Eyle, he gazed into my face ever so long and said he could read my thoughts! Wasn't that clever of him, dear?"
Eyle: Oh, I suppose he read between the lines, darling. Punch.

Invaluable.

Norah: You take Tom out in your auto every day, don't you? He appears to be a necessary fixture in the machine.
Cora: He is. He's an automatic spark. Cleveland Leader.

WILD DAYS IN ODESSA.

Drunken Policemen and Soldiers Running Amuck Among the People.

Here is a correspondent's record of the minor hoodigan outrages of one day in the city of Odessa recently: "Shortly before sundown a drunken member of a small military picket staggered across to the edge of the broad pavement, raised his rifle and fired wildly at a passing dorky carrying two women and a young girl. The bullet missed its mark. An officer, attracted by the shot, rushed over, and the drunken soldier ran as best he could, after dropping his rifle, but was brought down by a shot in the leg from the officer. On the opposite side of Cathedral place, 300 paces away, about the same time, an intoxicated policeman reeled out of a vodka shop and commenced blazing about with his revolver, one shot wounding a young woman in the hand. He was shot dead by a member of the nearest picket.

"Earlier in the day two small merchants returning through a busy thoroughfare from the custom house were stopped by hoodigans and robbed of everything. Thirty yards away stood a picket of two soldiers and a policeman. The indignant victims demanded to know why the picket did not come to their assistance. One of the soldiers replied it was none of their business; they were there to control the traffic only.

"Two other cases of robbery with violence occurred in the afternoon close to my residence. In the outer districts of the city there were 17 similar assaults and robberies, and between midnight and midnight about 20. In three of the latter cases the military pickets were the bandits. A little girl of nine years, chased by the hoodigans, was shot dead on her own doorstep."

ALASKA NATIVE BEAR HUNT.

In Which Famous Hunter Displayed Agility That Was Marvelous.

"Bear hunting as pursued by the Alaska native is an interesting game," remarked J. P. Gardiner, a Nome miner, reports the San Francisco Chronicle.

"I witnessed a bear hunt on Kodiak island a few months ago. A big brown bear, one of the species familiarly known as Kodiak bear and the other Aleutian Islands, was pestering the settlement, and a native who bore a wide reputation for prowess among his people started to go after the animal. Before starting on the expedition, however, he went to his mother and obtained her permission. His mother was the oldest woman of the tribe and without her consent he wouldn't have stirred an inch. She gave her consent, so the native hunter, armed only with a knife, started out. Three more of us, with rifles, accompanied him. We agreed among us to allow the native to have the first chance at the bear and to shoot only if he failed to kill the beast.

"We came upon the bear in a ravine. The native crouched on the ground as the bear came up. We became quite excited. It was to be a hand-to-hand battle, and we feared the native would get the worst of it. As the bear approached the native it reared on its hind legs. We had our guns ready for instant action. But the guns were not needed. Quick as a flash the native sprang up and had his knife plunged into the animal's heart and was away several steps before the bear knew what had happened. It was a death blow, and we packed the pelt back to Karluk in triumph."

GREAT SLAUGHTER OF GAME.

Thousands Upon Thousands of Wild Animals Destroyed in South Africa.

During the four months of the shooting season of 1904 something like 12,000 head of game has been sold on the Kimberley market. Those figures were rather staggering, but it is surprising, perhaps, to hear that they had more than doubled during the present year.

The secretary of the Game Protection association had obtained a return from the marketmaster which showed that 29,119 head of game were sold on the Kimberley market during the period April 1 to August 15 last. If of that 29,119 say 2,000 head were small birds which did not come with in the usual interpretation of the word "game," that left something like 27,000 head of bird and birds which were included in the usual interpretation of the word "game." That was a lamentable return, and clearly emphasized the necessity for taking some action to stop the indiscriminate slaughter of game.

The totals under the various heads of the return showed that the game included 3,402 springbuck, 244 duiker, 1,816 stembuck, 6,861 hares, the past season had been a remarkable one for hares, as all knew 3,897 korhaan, 3,247 rearing, 104 quail, 143 paraw, 279 wild duck, 25 wild geese and 8,555 partridges and small birds.

Many Self Doubts for Flute Player.

Knowing the use of tobacco and indulgence in intoxicants are equally disastrous to the ambitions of the flutist according to John J. Cafarelli, a flutist of over 20 years standing. Muscles of a flutist's mouth are tender to a degree, or they are sensitive that is the word," said Mr. Cafarelli. "They are trained to the action necessary to the performance with the flute, but at the same time they are more sensitive than the ordinary muscles. Tobacco and indulgence in intoxicants are equally disastrous to the ambitions of the flutist for his work, as they make the muscles of the mouth so flabby and limp that they cannot perform their necessary and difficult work." Milwaukee Sentinel.

A WOMAN'S FRIENDSHIP.

Instances of Intense Personal Attachments Among Historic Characters.

When Mme. de Staël was dying she wrote Mme. Recamier, closing her letter as follows: "All that is left of me embraces you."

Mme. Recamier devoted the remainder of her life in cherishing the memory of Mme. de Staël, says the Pillgrim. The only person who ever came near filling Mme. de Staël's place in her heart was Elizabeth Foster, the beautiful duchess of Devonshire—the original of Sir Joshua Reynolds' famous portrait.

Margaret Fuller formed many impassioned connections with women during her life. They were attracted by her powers of intellect and harmony.

There are three noted instances of platonic attachments—Petrarch and Laura, and Dante and Beatrice, and Joanna Baillie and Sir Walter Scott.

Mme. Roland and her husband were alike and inseparable. John Stuart Mill and his wife were companions, as were also Elizabeth and Robert Browning. These relations can be easily explained. The fever of time produces lassitude, dispels illusions, and undermines passions. Then the love of these strong souls turns into that crowning lasting union—friendship.

There was a great friendship between Goethe and his sister Cornelia. She was a year younger than he, and while not at all good looking, had superior endowments of mind and character. The attachment between Byron and his sister, Mrs. Leigh, was most touching. She remained unalterably attached to him during the fatal storm of unpopularity which drove him out of England. Four of his best poems were composed for and addressed to her. Byron's best words were of his sister and his daughter.

CHRISTMAS TREE GAMBLE.

Dealers in the Holiday Buses Never Know How They Are Coming Out.

"The Christmas tree business is a gamble," says one of the few New York shippers who never comes out of the losing side, says Country Life in America, because he knows how to cut his trees and how to sell them, because he knows there is always a sale for the best. "No two years alike. No one knows how many shippers will be in the market. No one knows how many trees the others will bring, nor how many he himself will bring, for that matter, with weather and rail roads to reckon with at the last minute. The trees may cost \$65, they may cost \$150, a carload, which means from two to five cents apiece delivered on the farm." The average market price is 60 cents a bundle of five trees, and men who get this make good money. No two handle the business alike. One shipper will bring ten or 20 carloads of trees cut as they run, take them or leave them. Another will bring five carloads of carefully selected trees, sell them at 60 cents a bundle to two, three or five dollar apiece for large singles, and as high as \$25 for the giant trees that gladden the hearts of a hundred bed-ridden babies in a hospital or a half-thousand youngsters who have gone very faithfully to Sunday school for enough weeks before Christmas to insure them a place on the church tree; and this man will make more money with less risk than the man with 20 cars of poorer stock."

WOOD IN BOWLING BALLS.

Lignumvitae Not Now the Predominating Variety Used in Their Manufacture.

With the great increase in the number of women bowlers in recent years came a demand for bowling balls lighter than those of lignumvitae. One of the woods used for this purpose is called sappanoe, and comes from Cuba. Rosewood is now also occasionally used and so is mahogany.

Formerly all bowling balls were made without finger holes. Now it is common to make them with finger holes. Some bowlers prefer only two finger holes, one for the thumb and another for one finger. Other balls are made with an opening large enough to accommodate all the fingers, such being called slot balls.

Bowling balls are sometimes covered with rubber, as are also, where such balls are used the pins. This arrangement makes the game less noisy.

There is now made a solid hard rubber bowling ball that is asserted to possess extraordinary merits. It is said it will outwear many wooden balls and remains always true in shape.

A regulation lignumvitae ball costs about four dollars, a solid hard rubber bowling ball of regulation size and weight costs \$20.

Trust vs. Rings.

"Was" queried the fair maid, "is the difference between a trust and a ring?"
"I'm afraid I can't explain the difference in so many words," replied the young man in the case, but if you'll put your trust in me, I'll blow myself for the ring to-morrow."
And she put her trust in him. Chicago Daily News.

Acting Under Orders.

"I should like to go to your party, above all things," Mrs. Lappling was saying, but the doctor says I must remain exclusive for a week more. I am troubled with a slight prostration of the left lung."—Chicago Tribune.

FROM ALASKA TO CAPE HORN.

Pan-American Railway Projected Which Will Be Greatest of Its Kind.

The gray plover nests in the sedges of Alaska, says E. B. Clark, in the Technical World; and when the short summer wanes, it leads its young in perilous flight southward across plains and mountain ranges and then, guided by the coast-line, wings its way steadily onward until it reaches its winter home in Patagonia. For more than one-half of the immense distance of its migration the flight course of the gray plover is almost coincident with the surveyed line for the projected Pan-American railway, a commercial connection between the northern and southern continents that a few years ago was regarded as the dream of enthusiasts, but which to-day has passed far beyond the realm of visions.

Men whose lives are well behind them will probably live to see the day when they can make an unbroken railway journey from the River Yukon in Alaska to the River Limay in Patagonia. This journey from the north to the south means more than the traveling of an immense distance within a short space of time, though this thought alone is impressive.

It means the passing through alternate cold and heat, moisture and dryness, bare fields and green fields, treeless plains and tropical forests, fertile valleys and sterile mountains; it means acquaintance with men of every line of skin and of every habit of life. It means the wedding of the ends of earth.

THE KAISER AND BISMARCK.

Why Emperor William Dismissed the Greatest Statesman of His Time.

Baron Heckelorn contributes to La Revue a character sketch of the German emperor.

About 15 years ago came the dismissal of Bismarck, and as no one has ever been able to give a satisfactory explanation of the real cause, the Baron offers one "hitherto unpublished." It emanates from Dr. Roth, a Swiss diplomatist.

"The federal council," writes Baron Heckelorn, had taken the initiative in proposing an international conference for the protection of labor to be held at Berne in 1890. No sooner did the Kaiser hear of it than he demanded that the conference should meet at Berlin. Bismarck did not approve of the Kaiser's plan, and when all failed, he asked the Swiss ambassador to persuade his government to persist in its original proposal. Whether Dr. Roth did so is not stated, but probably not, as the congress assembled at Berlin in due course.

A few days after the news of the chancellor's visit reached the ears of the Kaiser, who was furious and had a long conversation with the chancellor. This was March 19, and everyone knows Bismarck was dismissed on the 20th. Also, the writer states, the Kaiser not long after presented his portrait to Dr. Roth with the dedication: "To Dr. Roth. A souvenir of March 19, 1890. William, I. R."

MAKING ARTIFICIAL LIFE.

Living Things Are Created by the Operations of Scientists.

Scientists have been recently interested in the announcement that Prof. J. Butler Burke, of the Cavendish laboratory, Cambridge, England, has succeeded in creating, by chemical reactions, certain living bodies of an extremely low form, which he calls "radiobes."

Prof. Burke, says the Technical World Magazine, treated a solution of gelatine with bromide of radium and the radiobes resulted. A radiobe appears first as "the minutest visible speck," and "it grows to two dots, then a dumb-bell-shaped appearance, later more like a frog's spawn."

But is it really alive? On this point hear Prof. Burke himself:

"The continuity of structure, assimilation and growth, and then subdivision, together with the nucleated structure as shown in a few of the best specimens, suggest that they are entitled to be classed among living things in the sense in which we use the word."

"They are, obviously, altogether outside the beaten track of living things. . . . Thus the gap apparently insuperable between the organic and inorganic world seems, however roughly, to be bridged over by the presence of these radio-organic organisms."

Cost to Extinguish Fire.

The Katerbach colliery, at Shamokin, Pa., which was on fire for more than a year, and which was officially declared extinguished recently, was found to be on fire above the water level the other day. This presents one of the most difficult underground fires to overcome in the history of the coal region. The expense thus far in the efforts to extinguish the fire amounts to \$100,000.

Indian's Big Family.

George Fields, a Cherokee Indian living in Indian Territory, has been married three times to the father of 36 children, 26 of whom are now living. He is 60 years old. He has the largest family in the Cherokee nation.

Date Stones Fed to Cows.

The cattle of Southland says a recent official report, are fattened on date stones and with animals fed on such a diet are said to produce better and more copious milk than others.